DXCC OR WAZ

SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

May 1983

President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF □ Vice President: Joe Locascio, K5KT
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Next meeting: May 12 at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 5939 Sunset, 6 PM or later: $6.50 a head. Prizes include a Moscow Muffler.

Roger Mace, W6RW: 100 on 160 from California.

Roger Who is *numero uno*

By Jan Perkins, N6AW

Roger Mace, W6RW, has accomplished what many said was impossible—100 countries on 160 meters from California. Only 24 160-meter DXCCs have been awarded, the first going to W1BB (who else?) in 1976. Roger is the first W6.

It was 1966 when he got serious about 160. He achieved WAC in 1972 with a card from EI9J. "There's no substitute for diligence," he says. "You have to work at it."

His hilltop location doesn't hurt him. At present he has five antennas on 160: an 800-foot longwire toward Japan, a full-wavelength loop running north and south, a half-wavelength sloper to the east, two halfwaves in phase northeast/southwest, and an inverted *U* northwest/southeast.

Signing 9DUC, Roger first got on the air in 1923 from Indianapolis. Herbert Hoover was Secretary of Commerce at that time, and amateurs had the use of all wavelengths below 200 meters. Later on, Roger was W9RQ.

He got married in 1933. He and Violet (they celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in June) drove to California in a Model T. Roger became a motion picture cameraman; *Gone With the Wind* is among his big ones. Now 77, he retired from the business 13 years ago.

All 52 deleted countries appear among his QSLs. He's waiting for a Knights of Malta card and has the other 314 current ones confirmed.

Many remember the multi-multi contest efforts of the 1950s and 60s from W6RW. Roger won World High Cup in the 1957 CQWW CW test, the first to reach 1 million points. Among the operators was W6DGH—Dick Norton, now N6AA, who took CQWW World High from 9Y4VT in 1981. Dick had a good teacher.

Though strictly a CW operator, Roger can't say he *never* works phone. In the early 1960s, HV1CN came on but not on CW; he didn't even own a key. Roger needed the Vatican, so he went out and bought a mike. Thus, HV1CN has the honor of being W6RW's first DX phone QSO.

NO PICNIC—Jim and Kirsti Smith, signing VK0JS and VK0NL, operated from a kitchen shelter that was almost as cold and drafty as the rest of Heard Island. Jim was one of the speakers at Visalia, highlights of which are included in a wrap-up on page 2.

Albania: patience is required

By Martti Laine, OH2BH

A long-term project to establish amateur radio in Albania is slowly moving. The first leg of the journey was to invite two Albanians to Finland for basic amateur training and give them amateur gear to be donated to one of their educational societies.

Now, the Albanians are coming to Finland in early May, and the course will be organized through the Finnish society. It is sponsored by Axel, OH5NW, the league president, OH2BH, Finnish-Albania League, and the leading DX foundations. The gear may go with them in May, or in June with a Finnish group planning to conduct a short training session in Tirana.

Patience is required since no immediate activity is expected for some time, but it may be coming, and on a permanent basis. The OH group is operating through many channels, the most promising being UNESCO Headquarters with their UN status.

DX news

Martti Laine is supposed to be operating **OH0BH/Aland** from 20z May 7 to 20z May 8. Look for him at appropriate times on 1825, 3505, 3795, 7005, 7045, 14220, 21050, 21300, 28050 and 28520 to make a schedule.

FB8ZQ reported on 7003 saying he will sked for 80. **ZS6BPJ/ZS3** heard on 160. Likewise, **Victor, ZK1CG:** 1813 KHz at 0730z.

It won't count, **Don Search** has reportedly said, but **DU1CK** & Co. are on for **Spratly.** One report says first week in May, another says May 9.

KP5 is the new prefix for **Desecheo.** Don't forget that **1A0KM** is due on this month. Remember too, that on May 22, the 20-meter phone band expands: extras down to 14150, advanced to 175, general 225.

Katashi Nose, KH6IJ, named Ham of the Year at Dayton; **Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ,** got the Special Achievement Award. Among the equipment on view that should be of interest to DXers: the Kenwood TS-780, for 440 and 144 MHz (out this month); and the TenTec 2510 "transmitter and *receiver converter,"* same freqs, to be brought out "30 days after a successful launch." Both are for Mode B USB and CW. *The birds are coming!* Or, as Hitchcock said, "*The Birds* is coming...."

Admirably sticking to their guns, ARRL came out *against* no-code.

Ron, ZL1AMO, says he's lodged his third application to visit **ZL/K** and, if approved, it would come about next November or December.

BY1PK heard working **BY8AA** 14058 at 0050z. **BY1PK** also noted on 14020 at 01z. *DX Report* advises that **Lml, BY8AA,** is a stamp collector. *LIDXB* says greenstamps are okay in BY too.

Activity reports

W6RT: **TF3SV** 7007 0209 (March 26); **K3UOC/PJ6** 7012 0247 (March 27); **LA5YJ** 7002 0233 (March 28); **K1BJ/3B8** 7005 0259, **A4XYF** 7010 1433 (March 29); **TR8JD** 7001 0117, **ZL1AMO/C** 7005 0628 (March 30); **GU5BLG** 7006 0629 (April 2); **LU4MDR/Z** 7012 0337, **K0TT/KH0** 7015 1357 (April 5); **JA0SWT/JD1** 7018 1407 (April 7); **TG9XML** 7009 0652 (April 9); **FB8ZQ** 7001 0141 (April 10); **H44DX** 3805 0723 (April 11); **4K1F** 7050 0240, **FR7BP** 7007 1403, **1Z9A** 14030 1640 (April 17); **F3NB** 10103 0657, **VK1PG** 10104 0700 (April 19).

W6BWG: **BV2B** 14225 1640 (March 9); **XZ9A** 14224 1716 (March 18); **9Q5JE** 28599 1818 (March 21); **BY1PK** 14170 0138 (March 29); **KC7UU/5N3** 14202 0203 (March 30); **VS5HG** 14222 1603 (April 1).

(Deadline for next month: May 27)

Visalia wrap-up

NCDXC put on a fine convention, and they'll get no argument from Southern Cal on that. Our thanks and congratulations to Jan and Jay O'Brien, and everyone else who worked so hard.

Here are some highlights:

- **Dr. San Hutson, K5YY,** has been elected to the CQ Hall of Fame.
- **Bill Mauzey, W6RT,** was named DXer of the Year by SCDXC.
- Malpelo will be on for five days in October, announced **Fred Laun, HK3NNB, ex-HS1ABD. HK1QQ** will be one of the operators. Fred said two helicopters are being lined up to set the station, which will be signing **HK0TU,** atop the mountain so the West Coast and Japan can be worked with ease.
- Peter Island will probably be added to the DXCC countries list.
- Controversy over lists and DX nets has abated somewhat.
- Danger will not be a consideration for deletion of a country.
- China, says JA1BK, should be on SSB before the end of the year.
- **Archie Willis, W6LPJ,** manager of the problem-ridden W6 QSL bureau, declined an invitation to attend and would not even agree to answer questions via a special half-hour telephone hookup. No "real purpose is served," he told Jay O'Brien and the convention committee, "if general questions about general problems are addressed to the general amateur community." Many of those in attendance expressed anger and exasperation over this response, or lack of it.
- In a session called "How to Break a Pileup," six notable expeditioners told how.

Erik Sjolund, SM0AGD: "Listen to the pileup and find out where the DX is listening. 'Five up' to me means plus or minus two. A heavy pileup necessitates a split. Make your calls short. On sideband use the proper phonetics—*alpha, bravo, charlie, delta.*

Al Fischer, K8CW: "The loudest station is worked first. Stop transmitting if the letter given is not in your call."

Jim Neiger, 8P6J, N6TJ: "Be in the right place at the right time. Slip your call in during a pause. Give your entire call one time. Tailending is okay. I encourage it. CW is where it's at. Don't call out of turn. Make your calls short. Try to think ahead of the DX station."

Fred Laun, HK3NNB, ex-HS1ABD: "On CW I tune to the high side of the pileup, going to the last station. On phone, count *1, 2, 3*—then break your vox with your full call."

Jim Smith, VK9NS: "Give your whole call. After all, we do write the log left to right. Listen, cooperate. I don't necessarily come back to the strongest signal. Find out where the DX is listening. Give your call sign once. Remember that the expeditioner is there to work you. Help him. On CW I'll say two to

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Heard Island:

Heard Island expeditioners **Al Fischer, K8CW,** and **Jim Smith, VK9NS,** were on hand for the Saturday afternoon session at Visalia. There was no confrontation between them, but Jim Smith made his feelings about IDXF and the Northern California DX Foundation quite clear.

Al Fischer spoke first. He said about 30,138 contacts were made by his group.

"When we first came on the air, our biggest problem was we had to compete with TT8, BY1, BY8 and LU5Z. We could not get a pileup of our own going. We called CQ until we were blue in the face, and only a few people would come back. The first time I went on CW, everybody was calling the BY8. About 10 kc down was LU5ZI, and my signal never could get strong enough to get a pileup going. A few people heard me. I'd sit right on top of 025...."

North America and Europe, he said, did not suffer so much from terrain as propagation. "Sometimes the vertical worked better for W6 than the beam. It was because of the crooked path. We put the beam on, turned it every which way, then flipped to the vertical, and you guys were okay."

Long and short path, he said, "were not there at the typical times you'd expect. We always had a crooked path to you. We had to point our beam at an odd direction. For the East Coast, we didn't have that problem. For the sixes, we had to beam right over Europe, and we could not get them to stand by. If you guys had heard me say '14,100' or '14,110,' you could get me without a hitch, but I couldn't get the word out that's where I was listening. See, the window to sixes just didn't last very long. The first three days, the East Coast wouldn't stand by at all. After that, there was a chance. I'm really sorry we didn't have better propagation. Of all the places in the world, propagation was the worst to W6."

The Icom transceivers and Amp Supply linears performed without a hitch, he said. Their yagi, however, was blown apart and they were using its driven element in the last days they were there. "We still had two beams we could've put back up if we'd had more time, but the skipper had a time slot to get back home, which was part of the charter with the mountain climbers. We couldn't do anything about that. We were supposed to have six weeks, we ended up with a month."

It was no vacation on Heard, he said. "I don't want a rumor to get around that it was. As far as my personal involvement in it, my expenses were not paid by anybody. I personally invested over $10,000—which I didn't have—into this expedition. It's probably

going to come out to even more than that."

At the opening of his remarks, K8CW had said that the controversial pileup handling techniques of the St. Peter and Paul Rocks expedition were not his doing. When Jim Smith came to the podium, he brought up Peter and Paul Rocks again: "We know it was a difficult situation," he said, "but I've never heard a worse expedition. I think that amateur radio reached an all-time low on the split frequency of 195 listening all the way up."

There was a thundering round of applause.

"I feel," Smith continued, "that commercials on amateur radio got to an all-time low when we heard, *This expedition brought to you courtesy of Northern California DX Foundation and IDXF. Please support your local DX foundation.*"

In case anyone in the room didn't know it, they did then: Jim Smith was angry. Quite a few present knew he had come to the U.S. to have his day in court, as it were; to state his case, first at Visalia and then at Dayton.

"I hope you will bear with me," he said. "I have something to say. There are problems regarding the mounting of two expeditions to Heard Island, with tremendous duplication of effort, with tremendous duplication of expense."

He told of his early attempts to activate Heard: the ill-fated VK0RM effort when a TS-120S gave up the ghost after 65 contacts, and then of his endeavors to get himself a berth, first aboard the *Cape Pilar,* then on the Dick Smith *Explorer.*

A year ago, at the Visalia Sunday breakfast session, VK5QX broke the news that a mountain climbing expedition to Heard was in the works, and that amateur radio would be going along, providing it paid its way. Smith heard the news on the air. "I said, 'Fair enough. Somebody else can do it. I haven't done it, so let them do it.' And I got into print very quickly, more or less to that effect."

His comments appeared in the respected Australian publication, *Amateur Radio Action.* The writer said that based on documents he had in hand Jim Smith had done a great deal of work toward a Heard Island expedition, and that the only major obstacle remaining appeared to be raising enough money for a charter and equipment.

Smith stated in the article that he was going to bow out, that funds would be returned to contributors "and in that way the individual can decide." HIDXA would stand back, he wrote, "and allow another group to activate Heard Island."

But that is not what happened. Along with Smith's comments appeared statements from Nick Nichols, VK6XI, and others of the so-called VK6 DX Chasers' group. It was clear Smith had been excluded. One such remark, unattributed: "Jim's planning wasn't all that advanced and he thus would not have had that much to offer anyways."

"Nobody telephoned me," Smith said at Visalia. "Nobody wrote me, nobody asked me. I don't own Heard Island, but I have in all honesty put a hell of a lot into it. I had no help from major organizations. My application for financial assistance for Heard Island had been on file with the Northern California DX Foundation since 1980, but they decided for reasons better known to themselves to join forces with IDXF. These are amateur radio funds we're talking about, donations, and persons in their infinite wisdom are deciding which expeditions to support. I feel that they should be *objective.*"

Smith believes that he has been maligned. "It takes a long time to build up a reputation," he said, "and a reputation can be ruined very quickly....

"What I want to assure everyone is that we did not go to Heard Island in an irresponsible way. We did, I think, everything humanly possible to make sure the vessel was suitable....

"When I came back from Heard I was prepared to stop this nonsense once and for all. It turns out that I was met by VK6MK, whom many of you know. He suggested that I show him the logs immediately because the word was out that we'd lost the logs. What could be worse than an expedition that comes back with no logs? So VK6MK authenticated them. Most of our cards have already been sent out, as many of you are aware. We've made every effort to give a quick QSL."

The picture on page 1 shows only half of their operation. "We had three operating positions in the kitchen. The walls were unlined and it was pretty cold and pretty drafty. The reason you don't see my left hand in that picture is because there's a glove on it. The fourth operating position, where we did RTTY, satellite and video, was apart. We had four generators in a tent. I worked all my W6s on the long path, 16z, because when I was a G, I can remember you sixes coming over the top of my head to get into the southern Indian Ocean."

He covered some of the problems encountered with their vessel, notably on the return voyage when they averaged 2.34 knots an hour. The charter for the craft, *Cheynes II,* was $60,000. "The remaining funding was to fuel *Cheynes II,* and Kirsti and I put up $23,000 for the fuel. We hope to get some of that back from philatelic covers we're selling, and also we have a two-hour film documentary.

"It's important to remember that we went to Heard Island as an amateur radio expedition. Our expedition was driven by amateur radio. To the 762 individual hams who sent HIDXA a couple of bucks, I want to thank you very sincerely. The largest donation to date we got from a club was $300 from a certain well-known organisation which shall remain nameless. Thank you, Southern Cal DX Club.

"Those who donated to HIDXA got an expedition to Heard, consisting of five radio hams, five scientists and five mountaineers. Ours didn't get to the top of Big Ben, due to the warm weather. They were within six hours of the top and spent four days waiting for a freeze, which never came. They were beaten by the weather and...they want to go back next year. I think that HIDXA will help them with logistics and possibly send an operator with them.

"If I went to Heard again, I'd take a three or four-element phased vertical array on forty meters, because that's the band where the work's going to be done. Forty's it."

—W6YQ

Ackley disputes Smith at Dayton

By Irv Emig, W6GC

In an appearance at Dayton, John Ackley, KP2A, bitterly denounced Jim Smith's leadership of the HIDXA expedition to Heard Island and alleged that the vessel *Cheynes II* was in bad condition. He contended that the craft was scheduled for salvage.

These comments, which made his listeners extremely uncomfortable, were inappropriate for a gathering like the Dayton convention.

Ackley recounted contacts with Smith that had taken place several years prior to the expedition. He said he had been told by Smith that such an expedition would cost $100,000. However, he also complimented Smith, saying that it was through his efforts that the Heard Island expedition finally came about. Smith's quarrel, he added, was not with IDXF but with Nick Nichols, VK6XI, and the VK6 DX Chasers Club.

The remarks by Ackley followed a presentation by Smith, essentially the same as the one he had given at Visalia except that he emphasized the seaworthiness of *Cheynes II* and stressed his own integrity. Smith was not on the Dayton program and had requested 15 minutes for his talk.

When Ackley finished, Smith asked for a rebuttal but was refused due to lack of time on the convention schedule.

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Contest calendar

May 14	World Telecomm. CW
May 28-29	CQ WW WPX CW
June 18-19	All Asian Phone
July 9-10	Radiosport
July 16-17	SEANET CW
Aug 13-14	WAE CW
Aug 13-14	SEANET Phone
Aug 27-28	All Asian CW

—W1WY

Visalia

Continued from page 2

five up, thus defining the pileup. Short calls help. I don't use vox or foot-to-talk. Tailending is fine."

Iris Colvin, W6QL: "I will transceive when possible. Listen; find the rhythm of the pileup. I come back to partial calls, and I don't necessarily work the loudest station. If you're not getting through, change your technique. By all means, follow instructions."

—**KA6ISX, N6AW, W6YQ**

Open house at the Ranch

There will be a visitor's day this year at the W6AM Rhombic Farm: Sunday, June 12, 1-5 PM. Virginia Reynolds and Don C. Wallace, W6AM, will be glad to see you.

Here are the directions:

Go south on the Harbor Freeway to Anaheim St. Turn right (west) 1 mile to the Palos Verdes Hills (5 corners), bear left up the hill on Palos Verdes Drive North, 3.8 miles to Hawthorne Blvd. Turn left, up the hill 2 miles, past the Peninsula Shopping Center to Highridge Road. Go left ¾ of a mile to 28503 Highridge Road. Drive in 2 blocks to the 100-foot long ham shack.

The Palos Verdes Amateur Club is handling the parking, their XYLs assisting at the coffee table.

State of the bands

Longer days and shorter openings are the order of business. Long path openings are still with us, but later and with weaker signals. The stouthearted continue to work lots of DX on that path.

Ten meters to Europe around 18z is spotty but can surprise you. Central and South Africa at the same time is more predictable and usually stronger. South America is good 20-02z and the South Pacific until 04z if anyone is on. Asia peaks about 00z.

Ditto for 15, with Europe a bit earlier, and occasional Mideast stations heard. Asia will be copied after 22z and Africa until 03z at times.

Twenty is the bread-and-butter band for the next few months. Big signals come from zone 17 from our sunset until their sunrise (02-06z). Western Europe will be strong from 04-07z. Long path Europe and Africa from 15-18z, and short path Africa from 00-05z. Southeast Asia is very good 15-17z.

Forty long path to the Indian Ocean is still possible but signals are weaker (1330-1430z). Southeast Asia is loud 13-15z. Europe short path 02-06z is a best bet. Try South America at 08z and Africa 03-06z.

Eighty is getting noisy but there are lots of good ones being worked. Watch the grey line and sunrise at the other end.

—**N6AW**

N4XX propagation

A reminder that these forecasts are general; for specific propagation over a given path, consult *The Shortwave Propagation Handbook*. N4XX and SCDXC are grateful to KH6BZF for the raw data he furnishes us.

A, H, L, B, D—Above, High, Low, Below, Disturbed

6	**L**	10	**B**	14	**H/L**
7	**L**	11	**B**	15	**H**
8	**L**	12	**L**	16	**H**
9	**L**	13	**L**	17	**H**

Classified

CUSTOMIZED QSLs by W6BA, $19.75 for 1000 plus shipping. No standard forms. We try to print what you want. Black ink on color 110-pound stock. Write for samples. Bill Adams, W6BA; Star Route 2, 29 Palms, CA 92277.

WANTED: 75S3 rcvr with double xtal deck and 200-Hz filter; round emblem preferred. Don, W6AM (213) 424-3459 or 377-4120.

CX7A—late California serial number in mint condition with RIT mod; zener and MOV protected; spare 8072 final; original owner: $800. Roger, W6RW (213) 654-3714.

4-1000A AMP in six-foot rack with power supply: $750 or trade. Dick, W6NSV (213) 654-7486 or 204-4411.